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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed April 10, 2006. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

Claims 10-22 and 31-34 were withdrawn from consideration under a previous Restriction Requirement. To expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has herein cancelled the withdrawn claims without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications to the withdrawn claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application.

Additionally, by the forgoing amendment, the specification has been amended, and new claims 35-40 have been added. Thus, claims 1-9, 23-30 and 35-40 are currently pending for further action.

Drawings:

The recent Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as failing to show the "structural element coupled to said reflector and said startup element." (Action of 4/10/06, p. 2). This objection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

The structural element that couples the startup element to the reflector is illustrated in the drawings. For example, Figures 1, 2A and 2B illustrate a coupler (150) which couples the startup element (130) to the reflector (110). From the figures, it is clear that this coupler provides the structural support to position the startup element (130) so as to receive a portion of a lamp assembly (210). Paragraph 0020 has been amended herein to clarify that the

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coupler (150) fills the dual role of providing both structural support and an electrical connection for the startup element (130). No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Consequently, the drawings as originally filed illustrate all the claimed subject matter as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), including the structural element that supports the startup element and couples the startup element to the reflector. Therefore, the objection to the drawings should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Specification:

The recent Office Action also objected to the specification due to informalities in paragraphs 0020 and 0030. These informalities have been addressed in the present paper. Consequently, following entry of this amendment, the specification should no longer be subject to objection, and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Prior Art:

With regard to the prior art, claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 23-29 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,505,958 to Ooms et al. ("Ooms") and U.S. Patent No. 5,010,455 to Luallin et al. ("Luallin"). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites:

A reflector assembly for use in a digital projector, comprising:
a reflector including a reflector opening, and
a startup element *fixedly coupled* to said reflector, wherein said reflector and said startup element are configured to allow a replaceable coupling of a lamp assembly to said reflector assembly.
(Emphasis added).

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According to the Office Action, Ooms teaches “a startup element (starting aid) 33 fixedly coupled to the reflector 2.” (Action of 4/10/06). This, however, is a misreading of what Ooms actually teaches.

Ooms teaches that “starting aid 31 further comprises an external antenna 33 ... The antenna 33 is wound a few turns around the second end portion 15 [of a lamp vessel 11].” (Ooms, col. 4, lines 27-31; *see also* Ooms, col. 3, lines 59-60). Thus, Ooms teaches a “starting aid” that is not fixedly coupled to a reflector, but rather is disposed on and wrapped around a lamp assembly.

The antenna (33) is not fixedly coupled to the reflector, but “comprises a connection conductor 34 which is passed through a further opening 35 in the reflector portion 2 and is connected to the further contact member 29 provided on the outer surface 23.” (Ooms, col. 4, lines 31-34). Thus, the connection conductor (34) of the antenna (33) passes through a hole (35) in the reflector (2) rather than being coupled to the reflector (2). Consequently, Ooms does not teach or suggest the claimed “a startup element fixedly coupled to said reflector.”

Moreover, Ooms does not teach or suggest that “said reflector and said startup element are configured to allow a replaceable coupling of a lamp assembly to said reflector assembly.” To the contrary, Ooms teaches away from this subject matter by teachings a startup element (coiled antenna 33) that is wrapped directly on and supported on the lamp vessel (11). (*See*, Ooms, Fig. 2).

Luallin fails to remedy these deficiencies of Ooms. Luallin does not teach or suggest a startup element for a lamp, but is merely cited as teachings a replaceable lamp assembly. (Office Action of 4/10/06, p. 4).

Consequently, the combination of Ooms and Luallin fails to teach or suggest the claimed “a startup element fixedly coupled to said reflector, wherein said reflector and said

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startup element are configured to allow a replaceable coupling of a lamp assembly to said reflector assembly." "To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims based on Ooms and Luallin should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent claim 23 recites:

A method of forming a reflector assembly used in digital projectors, comprising:
affixing a startup element to a reflector; and
coupling a latching assembly to an opening defined in said reflector wherein said startup element and said latching assembly cooperate to allow replaceable coupling of a lamp assembly to said reflector assembly.
(Emphasis added).

In contrast, as demonstrated above, the combination of Ooms and Luallin fails to teach or suggest "affixing a startup element to a reflector." Again, "[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 23 and its dependent claims based on Ooms and Luallin should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, the various dependent claims of the application recite further subject matter that is clearly patentable over the prior art of record. Specific examples follow.

Dependent claim 5 recites "a structural element coupled to said reflector and said startup element; wherein said potential coupler runs along said structural element." Claim 26 recites similar subject matter. As demonstrated above, the combination of Ooms and Luallin

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fails to teach or suggest the claimed structural element along which a potential coupler runs, as claimed. For at least this reason, the rejection of claims 5 and 26 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Dependent claim 6 recites "wherein [a] potential coupler comprises a structural element for supporting said startup element." Claim 27 recites similar subject matter. In contrast, Ooms and Luallin fail to teach or suggest the claimed potential coupler that includes a structural element for supporting the startup element. For at least this reason, the rejection of claims 6 and 27 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 3 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings Ooms, Luallin and U.S. Patent No. 3,733,599 to Fantozzi. Claims 9 and 30 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings Ooms, Luallin and U.S. Patent No. 6,078,128 to Gagnon et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the same reasons given above with respect to independent claims 1 and 23.

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Conclusion:


The newly added claims are thought to be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons given above with respect to the original independent claims.

Therefore, examination and allowance of the newly added claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

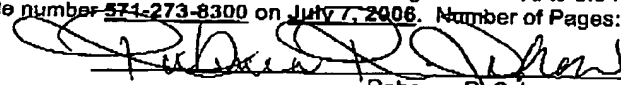
Respectfully submitted,

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<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office central facsimile number 574-273-8300 on <u>July 7, 2006</u>. Number of Pages: <u>15</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Rebecca R. Schow</p>
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